

STATE SENATOR • IRMA CLARK-COLEMAN • 3RD DISTRICT

Clark-Coleman Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 17, 2003**

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SEN. CLARK-COLEMAN JOINS MICHIGAN DELEGATION TO NATIONAL FORUM ON QUALITY PRESCHOOL

LANSING- State Senator Irma Clark-Coleman (D-Detroit) stated today that she was honored to join Governor Granholm and be part of the 4-member Michigan delegation to the National Governors Association's (NGA) Center for Best Practices Forum on Quality Preschool held in Orlando, Florida. Sen. Clark-Coleman, the only Michigan legislator serving on the delegation, said she was particularly pleased to learn more about Florida's universal access to pre-school referendum which was overwhelmingly approved by Florida voters last year.

"It was a great honor to have been chosen by the Governor to be part of the Michigan delegation to the National Governors Association's Forum on Quality Preschool," said Sen. Clark-Coleman. "I am a staunch advocate for early childhood education and admire Governor Granholm for promoting programs that recognize that ages 0-to-5 is where learning begins."

The NGA Forum on Quality Preschool was an unprecedented occasion for governors and senior state policymakers to discuss the opportunities and challenges that quality preschool presents, and to learn what works from national experts. Governor Granholm and host Gov. Jeb Bush were joined by governors from several states in a roundtable discussion on quality preschool.

Others activities included team sessions on topics such as the role of state leaders, financing strategies, governance and delivery models, preschool in an era of diversity and many more.

“Unfortunately, over half of all American children have no access to pre-school which can significantly reduce their school readiness and their potential for academic achievement,” Clark-Coleman said. “It was wonderful to learn more about programs like Florida’s that guarantee every child in the state the right to preschool. We need to close the preschool gap and give all children, rich and poor, the added opportunity for academic success that quality preschool provides.”

The members of the Michigan delegation are: Senator Clark-Coleman; Division of Family and Community Health Director Doug Peterson; Michigan Business Leaders for Education Excellence Executive Director Jim Sandy; and Governor Granholm’s Education Policy Advisor Sue Carnell. The Forum on Quality Preschool ran from December 15th-16th.

Sen. Clark-Coleman serves on the Senate Education Committee and has been a strong proponent of early childhood education. No taxpayer dollars were used to pay for Sen. Clark-Coleman’s participation at the NGA Forum on Quality Preschool.

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